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A NEW ESSAY ON PUNCTUATION:

BEING AN
ATTEMPT TO REDUCE THE PRACTICE
OF
POINTING

TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF DISTINCT AND EXPLICIT RULES,

BY WHICH
EVERY POINT MAY BE ACCOUNTED FOR
AFTER THE MANNER OF PARSING.

Divide, *distingue*, et impera.

By THOMAS STACKHOUSE.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,

By T. BENSLEY, Bolt Court, Fleet Street ;

AND SOLD BY WEST AND HUGHES, 40, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1800.

A NEW
ESSAY ON PUNCTUATION:

BEING AN
ATTEMPT TO REDUCE THE PRACTICE
OF
POINTING

TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN AND EXHIBIT RULES



EVERY POINT ACCOUNTED FOR
AFTER THE MANNER OF PARSING.

Divide, syllables, et imperia.

By THOMAS STACKHOUSE.

LONDON:

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PREFACE.

It is an assertion too strongly supported by fact, and too easily proved by experiment, to be controverted, that our youth, however complete in other branches of grammar, know little or nothing of that part of it, which relates to punctuation, or the right use of points:

The consideration of this fact leads to one of these inferences; either, That Punctuation is of little or no consequence; or, That tutors are negligent in a matter that is of importance; or, That their endeavours are unsuccessful for want of that necessary aid, which is derived from a systematic arrangement of rules, adapted to the purposes of teaching, by specifically applying to each distinct case:

With respect to the first of these, the universal adoption of the practice of pointing sufficiently declares its allowed utility; and, setting

aside the *general* advantage it is of to the reader, in helping him more readily to comprehend the meaning of the writer, and consequently to deliver the subject more intelligibly to others, there are some *particular* cases in which, if the writer does not, by pointing, precisely determine his own meaning, it is impossible for another person to do it: Of this the following sentence appears to be a striking instance;

“Happy is the man, who hath sown in his breast the seeds of benevolence*.” Or,

“Happy is the man, who hath, sown in his breast, the seeds of benevolence.”

This sentence in the first form implies, that sowing the seeds of benevolence is the person's own act:

In the last form it implies the possession of the seeds or principles of benevolence, as placed there by him, who is the great and liberal donor of every good and perfect gift: In which of two distinct meanings a sentence is to be accepted, the writer alone must determine; pointing therefore is not only *generally useful*, but in some *particular cases indispensably necessary*.

* Economy of Human Life, under the head, CHARITY.

Punctuation is then an important branch of grammar, and the ignorance of our youth, in this particular, is either chargeable on their teachers, as a culpable neglect, or to be attributed to the want of explicit and appropriate rules, without which the attempts to communicate any science must be irksome and discouraging, and ultimately unsuccessful:

But when we find on examination, that in other respects the progress of the pupil unequivocally attests the diligence of the tutor, we may fairly infer, that the last is the real cause of the deficiency we complain of:

Under this conviction the author of the ensuing pages has endeavoured, to the best of his ability, to draw up and arrange a few rules with a studious attention to the varied circumstances attached to this subject; in which he has kept a constant eye to their practical application, in the manner of parsing, so that the learner may in this, as in other parts of grammar, on all occasions, produce the rule by which he has been determined.

If, in this humble essay, he shall have fallen considerably short of the point he aimed at, he shall yet conclude, that his time has not been
wholly

wholly lost nor misapplied, if it induce some able pen to lead this subject on to its highest state of attainable perfection.

With respect to the manner of teaching by this essay, the distinct arrangement and obvious application of the rules, seem to make it unnecessary to say much:

The judicious teacher will readily perceive the necessity of making the learner thoroughly acquainted with one part before he proceeds to another, as each in a good degree clears the way to the next: But it is particularly desirable that he should be completely master of dividing a subject, before he proceeds to the application of the points.

But some may apprehend, that Punctuation, on this plan, will demand more time and attention than can be appropriated to it:

If such will please to make the trial, they will, probably, find, that Punctuation, proceeded on in this way, will prove a general praxis, which will set the whole grammatical machine in motion, so that no part will be in danger of rusting; and that although the learner may, in some cases, while he is pursuing one branch of grammar, be in danger of forgetting another; yet, in
this,

this, the attention, that must be paid to the connexion and construction of words and sentences, will occasion a continual recurring to the rules of Etymology and Syntax, and consequently rather promote than hinder his progress in every other part.

Having dropt these prefatory remarks, it only remains for the author to submit the whole to the candour of the judicious Reader.

T. S.

INTRO-

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 the candid and discerning Reader.

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T. S.

A
SYNOPSIS
OF ALL
THE RULES

[To be placed before p. 1.]



OF ART

THE RULES

[To be placed before p. 1.]

THE INDIVISIBLE PARTS OF A SUBJECT, &c.

Nouns or Pronouns connected by a conjunction.

Nouns or Pronouns in apposition.

The Noun and Genitive case.

The Noun and dative case.

The Noun and ablative case.

The Noun and its adjective in apposition.

The Noun and its articles, pronouns, and prepositions.

Nouns connected by prepositions.

Adjectives or Pronouns connected by a conjunction.

Two or more Adjectives relating to one noun.

The Adjective and the possessive or demonstrative pronoun.

The Adjective and the relative pronoun.

Such as nouns in a noun or object, connected and being two.

divided.

Two Verbs with a conjunction.

The Verb and its nominative case.

The Verb and its objective case.

The Auxiliary verb and its participles.

The Finite verb and the infinitive case.

THE INDIVISIBLE PARTS OF A SUBJECT, &c.

1.

Nouns or Pronouns connected by a conjunction.

2.

Nouns or Pronouns in apposition.

3.

The Noun and genitive case.

4.

The Noun and dative case.

5.

The Noun and ablative case.

6.

The Noun and its adjective or adjectives.

7.

The Noun and its articles, pronouns, and prepositions.

8.

Nouns connected, by prepositions.

9.

Adjectives or Pronouns connected by a conjunction.

10.

Two or more Adjectives auxiliaries to each other.

11.

The Adjective and the possessive, or demonstrative pronouns.

12.

The Adjective and the article.

13.

Such as these when in a nom. or object. capacities are better not divided.

VERBS.

14.

Two Verbs with a conjunction.

15.

The Verb and its nominative case.

16.

The Verb and its objective case.

17.

The Auxiliary, verb, and its participle.

18.

The Finite verb, and the infinitive verb.

^{19.}
The verb or verbal and its conjunctions, adverbs, interjections, relatives, and pronouns.

^{20.}
The Verb and prepositions connected with its adjuncts.

GENERAL RULES.

^{1.}
The Nominative case and its adnominal adjuncts.

^{2.}
The Objective case and its adjuncts.

^{3.}
The Verb and its adverbial adjuncts, unless parenthetical, and

^{4.}
The Verb and its nom. and objective cases are not to be separated by points.

THE DIVISIBLE PARTS OF A SUBJECT, &c.

^{1.}
Every simple sentence requires a point.

^{2.}
Relatives and pronouns introducing a fresh verb.

^{3.}
Adverbs, con. prepo. and interj. introducing or repeating a verb.

^{4.}
Several Adjectives belonging to the same substantive.

^{5.}
Several Substantives referring to the same adjective.

^{6.}
The Vocative case and its adjuncts.

^{7.}
Several Nominative cases to the same verb.

^{8.}
Several Objective cases to the same verb.

^{9.}
Several Verbs to the same nom. case.

^{10.}
Several Verbs to the same object. case.

19. The verb or verbal and its conditional, adverb, interrogative, relative, and pronoun.

20. The Verb and propositions connected with its adjuncts.

GENERAL RULES.

1. The Nominative case and its adnominal adjuncts.

2. The Objective case and its adjuncts.

3. The Verb and its adverbial adjuncts, unless parenthetical, and

4. The Verb and its noun, and objective cases are not to be separated by points.

THE DIVISION OF SUBJECT, &c. 12 YL 62

1. Every simple sentence requires a subject.
2. Relatives and pronouns introducing a finite verb.
3. Adverbs, conjunctions, and interjections, introducing or repeating a verb.
4. Several Adjectives belonging to the same substantive.
5. Several Substantives relating to the same adjective.
6. The Vocative case and its adjuncts.
7. Several Nominative cases to the same verb.
8. Several Objective cases to the same verb.
9. Several Verbs to the same noun case.
10. Several Verbs to the same object case.

11. Verbs introducing some new subject or circumstance.

12. Parenthetical or inserted members.

13. Things distinctly noted.

14. The distinct subjects or details of comparison.

15. Literal terms repeated figuratively, &c.

THE APPLICATION OF THE POINTS.

GENERAL RULES.

1. A complete clause unconnected with a preceding one requires a

Point.

2. A Complete clause connected with a preceding one requires a Colon.

3. A Complete clause connected with an incomplete one a Semicolon.

4. The Incomplete members of clauses are distinguished by a Comma.

PARTICULAR RULES FOR THE SEMICOLON.

1. Disting clauses in limits or comparison.

2. Argumentative, or explanatory sentences in succession; also narrative and descriptive.

3. Contrast, distance, disjunctive, and opposition.

4. Example, exception, inference, and illustration.

5. A succession of clauses having one common reference.

6. Questions, interrogations, and exclamatory sentences, have their

own proper marks.

11.
Verbials introducing some new subject or circumstance.

12.
Parenthetical or inserted members.

13.
Things distinctly recited.

14.
The distinct subjects of a simile or comparison.

15.
Literal terms repeated figuratively, &c.

THE APPLICATION OF THE POINTS.

GENERAL RULES.

1.
A complete clause unconnected with a succeeding one requires a
Period.

2.
A Complete clause connected with a complete one a Colon.

3.
A Complete clause connected with an incomplete one a Semicolon.

4.
The Incomplete members of clauses are distinguished by a Comma.

PARTICULAR RULES FOR THE SEMICOLON.

1.
Distinct clauses in simile or comparison.

12 JY 62
Argumentative, or expostulatory sentences in succession; also narrative and descriptive.

3.
Contrast, difference, disagreement, and opposition.

4.
Example, exception, inference, and illustration.

5.
A succession of clauses having one common reference.

6.
Quotations, interrogations, and ejaculatory sentences, have their
own proper marks.

INTRODUCTION.

POINTS are certain marks made use of by the writer to inform the reader where to pause, not only for his own ease in reading, but the more intelligible delivery of the subject to others.

The four following are the principal points;

- , **Comma,**
- ; **Semicolon,**
- : **Colon, and**
- . **Period.**

The pauses, or spaces of time assigned to each of these for respiration, are in the proportion to each other of, 1, 2, 3, 4; or 2, 4, 6, 8, &c. that is, if we stop at the comma while we can deliberately pronounce one, we should stop at the semicolon as long as is necessary, in the same deliberate manner, to count two, at the colon three, and the period four: again, if we begin at the comma with a pause equal to two, the

B

femicolon

femicolon will demand a pause equal to four, the colon six, and the period eight. But the brevity or length of the leading pause is best determined by the light and sprightly, or weighty and solemn, tenour of the subject.

Besides the four points already noticed there are some others, whose names sufficiently declare their uses; viz.

“ Quotation,

! Admiration,

? Interrogation,

and a few other marks which are not immediately the object of this essay.

POINTS

have two offices to perform; viz. to divide a subject into its component parts, and to distinguish their relations and connexions, or unconnectedness and integrity. It is in allusion to these two distinct functions that I have adopted the motto in the title page, having first adapted it by an applicable insertion,

“ Divide, *distingue*, et impera;”

importing that the whole of this art depends upon
rightly

rightly dividing a discourse into its parts, and nicely discriminating the relation, connexion, &c. of those parts.

Consistently with this idea punctuation is treated of in the following pages under these two heads :

1. The Division of a Subject into its Parts.
2. The Application of the Points :

The first of these includes rules by which to determine the *Situation*, or *Where* a point is necessary.

The second contains rules for ascertaining the *Species*, or *What* point is proper for this or that particular situation ; resolving the whole into these two primary considerations

WHERE and WHAT.

INTRODUCTION.

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cessary.

The second contains rules for ascertaining the
Species, or What point is proper for this or that
particular situation; resolving the whole into
these two primary considerations.

A review of *Where* and *What*,
with a few remarks on the
use of the points, and the
order of the parts, will
be found in the
appendix.

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THE
DIVISION
OF
A SUBJECT
INTO
ITS PARTS.

THE

DIVISION



TO

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ITS PARTS

B 3

THE DIVISION, &c.

A SUBJECT or discourse consists of one or all of these following clauses; viz.

Simple Sentences, Compound Sentences, Subperiods, and Periods;

A SIMPLE SENTENCE

is a clause which contains but one subject and one finite verb, and cannot be divided:

A COMPOUND SENTENCE

is a clause which consists of two or more simple sentences, and may be divided:

A SUBPERIOD

is the former of two clauses, both of which are complete in sense, but connected: This *may* contain two or more simple or compound sentences.

Note. When any division of a subject is spoken of in this essay, without regard to its particular appellation, the indefinite expression, *clause*, is mostly used; and this is more particularly done in treating of any member previous to ascertaining its appropriate term.

A PERIOD

is a clause complete in sense, and not connected with the succeeding one; and *may* contain two or more subperiods.

A subject or discourse consists of one or all of these following clauses; viz.
Simple Sentences, Compound Sentences,
Subperiods, and Periods;

A SIMPLE SENTENCE
is a clause which contains but one subject and one finite verb, and cannot be divided;

A COMPOUND SENTENCE
is a clause which consists of two or more simple sentences, and may be divided;

A SUPERIOD
is the former of two clauses, both of which are complete in sense, but connected: This may contain two or more simple or compound sentences.

Note. When any division of a subject is spoken of in this essay, without regard to its particular application, the indefinite expression, *that*, is mostly used; and this is more particularly done in treating of any member previous to describing its appropriate form.

ON SENTENCES.

It is presumed that the learner, at least, knows the different parts of speech, and has some general idea of the construction of sentences, previous to his entering upon this branch of grammar; but, as a complete knowledge of what constitutes a sentence is absolutely necessary to punctuation, it may not be superfluous, briefly, to touch upon this subject.

The principle parts of a sentence are

1. The verb, which expresses the subject;
2. The nominative case, which declares the agent; and
3. The accusative, or objective case, which shews the object;

and these three are sufficient to constitute a simple sentence; as,

He loves fruit.

I am making a pen.

B 5

But,

But, if the verb be neutral, the verb and its nominative case alone are enough to make a complete sentence; as

I walked, thou ran, he slept.

Also if the verb be in the imperative mood, the verb and the object; as,

Teach him.

The length of a sentence is often considerably augmented by the adjuncts, or explanatory words, added to the verb, and the nominative and objective cases: this will be best illustrated by taking a simple sentence, and gradually increasing it by these adjuncts; as,

The animal came.

What animal? that *demon. pron.*
Its description; stately and beautiful, *adjectives.*
Its degree of beauty; very, *compar. adverb.*

Now let us put these adnominal adjuncts to the noun,

Note. Words added to the noun, for explanation, &c. are in this tract called adnominal adjuncts.

Such as are added to the verb, for the same purpose, are called adverbial adjuncts.

That

That very stately and beautiful animal
 Came, *verb expressing the subject.*
 From whence? from a distant part *{ adverbial*
 of the world, *{ expression*
{ of locality.
 Its degree of distance; very, *com. adverb.*
 How did it come? in a ship *{ adverbial expres-*
{ sion of manner.
 When did it come? a few days since *{ adverbial*
{ of time.

We will now join these adverbial adjuncts
 of time, place, and manner, to the verb;

Came a few days since in a ship from a very
 distant part of the world.

And lastly, let us join the nominative case
 with its adjuncts to the verb and its adjuncts,
 and we shall have this long, but simple, sen-
 tence:

“That very stately and beautiful animal came
 a few days since in a ship from a very distant
 part of the world.”

This is not intended as an instance of an ele-
 gant sentence, but merely to shew how long a
 sentence may be made by these adjuncts, and still
 remain simple; that is, a sentence having but
 one subject and one finite verb: And as a sen-
 tence.

tence is not a compound one because it is long, neither is it, of necessity, a simple one because it is short; as may be seen in the subjoined examples:

I walked and he ran.

Here are two subjects, walking and running, expressed by two finite verbs; therefore this is a compound sentence, consisting of two simple sentences, into which it may of course be divided; as,

I walked, and he ran.

The repetition of the same verb likewise constitutes a compound sentence; as,

I ran, I ran fast.

I ran, and he ran.

But, probably, this repetition of the verb is always attended with some fresh circumstance; or the introduction of a new agent or object.

Before we dismiss this subject, let us see how the simple sentence, which we dilated so much, may be put into a different form, and still retain its simplicity.

First, then, it may be exhibited interrogatively; as,

"Did

"Did not that very stately and beautiful animal, &c.?"

2. It may be given in a passive form; as,

"That very stately and beautiful animal was brought, &c."

3. It may also be put interrogatively in the passive voice; as,

"Was not that very stately and beautiful animal, &c." or,

"Was that very stately and beautiful animal brought, &c."

Lastly, let us see how this sentence, though considerably shortened, will, by the introduction of a fresh subject, become a compound sentence.

"That very beautiful animal which we saw yesterday came lately from abroad."

In the above instance the sentence is considerably shortened by omitting some of the adjuncts; but it now contains two subjects of discourse, seeing and coming, expressed by the two finite verbs, saw and came; it is therefore a compound sentence, and divisible into these two simple ones,

"That very beautiful animal came lately from abroad;" and,

"Which

-in “Which we saw yesterday;” and by inserting the latter sentence in the former, it will be,

“That very beautiful animal, which we saw yesterday, came lately from abroad.”

In some sentences the verb is not expressed, but understood; as,

“Age, or disease, or solitude, will bring some hours of serious consideration :”

That is, age will bring some hours, &c.

Or disease will bring some hours, &c.

Or solitude will bring some hours, &c.

Note. It might be a very profitable occasional exercise for the young grammarian to frame, dilate, and vary sentences in this manner; as it might have a tendency to fit him for composition, as well as to render him expert at that part of punctuation which consists in dividing a subject into its members.

THE INDIVISIBLE PARTS OF A
SENTENCE.

As a preparative to the succeeding rules for dividing a subject into its parts, it may not be improper to take some notice of, what may be termed, the INDIVISIBLE parts of a sentence, or such as may not be separated by points.

And first,

N O U N S,

Connected by a conjunction, are indivisible ;
as,

Man and boy,

Woman or child,

Man nor beast,

Him or her.

2.

Nouns or pronouns in apposition ; as,

David the king,

Paul the apostle,

I myself,

I myself,
The man himself.

THE INDIVISIBLE PARTS OF A

3.

The noun and genitive case ; as,

The king of Israel,
The chief of apostles,
The king's dignity,
A nation's honour.

4.

The noun and dative case ; as,

The book to Samuel,
The cup to him,
His glory to images.

5.

The noun and ablative case ; as,

A letter from York,
A person from the country,
A man of Kent, i. e. from Kent.

6.

The noun and its adjective, or adjectives ; as,

A good man,
A bad pen,
A tall handsome man.

7. The

7.

The noun and its articles, pronouns, and prepositions; as,

A man, a book,

This man, that man,

The woman,

These things.

8.

Nouns connected by prepositions; as,

A house upon a rock,

A ship on the sea,

From end to end,

Man by man,

The apple tree among the trees, &c.

From the cedar to the hyssop, &c.

ADJECTIVES, OR PRONOUNS.

9.

Connected by a conjunction; as,

High and low,

Rich and poor,

This nor that,

His or hers

Mine or thine.

* Except where the sense absolutely requires distinction.

10. Two

10.

Two or more adjectives auxiliaries to each other; as,

A beautiful white horse,
A durable shining black colour,
A tall handsome man.

11.

The adjective and the possessive, or demonstrative pronouns; as,

That large house,
His best friend,
Its peculiar property, &c.

12.

The adjective and the article;

A tall cedar,

The loud blast, &c.

13.

Such as these following, whether in a nominative or objective capacity, are for the most part better not divided:

The man who, &c.

It is this that, &c.

It was he who, &c.

That which, &c.

VERBS.

VERBS.

14.

Two verbs with a conjunction; as,

He ruleth and directeth.

15.

The verb and its nominative case; as,

I work, thou playest,

He reads, she writes,

*The way to good manners is never too late,**The surest way to real honour is humility,**To write well requires practice.*

Except there be more than one nominative case, and without a conjunction; as,

“Let the storied urn, the animated bust, the speaking canvass, adorn our temples, and our lofty rooms.”

16.

The verb and its objective case; as,

“God created *the heavens and the earth*,”“To see *the beauty of the Lord*,”“To enquire *the cause*.”

Except there be more objective cases than one; as,

“The

"The inseparable attendants of gaming are, envy, deceit, impiety, and a whole train of diabolical associates."

17.

The auxiliary verb and participle; as,

I have taught,

Thou hast read,

He had resolved.

18.

The finite verb and the verb following in the infinitive mood*; as,

I want to know,

We went to see,

He has tried to discover.

* There may be more than one infinitive verb in a sentence; as,

I wonder to *bear* some people *term* it, &c.

The verbs *bear* and *term* are colleagues and contemporaries; therefore if the verb *bear* is infinitive, so is the verb *term*; it may be rendered thus;

I wonder to hear some people to term it, &c.

That the latter is an infinitive may also be proved by putting the sentence into another form perfectly consistent with the sense; viz.

I wonder, when I hear some people term it, &c.

The verb *term* is in this case the latter of two verbs, of which the verb *bear* is the former.

19. The

19.

The verb and its conjunctions, adverbs, interjections, relatives, and pronouns; as,

And he came,

When I heard,

If I thought,

O that I might,

He acted wisely,

That was badly done.

20.

The verb and prepositions connected with its adjuncts; as,

Arrived at, &c.

Brought from, &c.

Called to,

Delivered over to,

Endeavoured after,

Fought for,

Gloried in, &c.

Leaned against, &c.

GENERAL RULES.

The three following general rules pretty fully comprize the preceding particular observations.

1. The

1.

The nominative case and its adnominal adjuncts are not to be separated by pointing.

2.

The objective case and its adjuncts also are not to be divided by points; nor

3.

The verb and its adverbial adjuncts, unless they are parenthetical, or such as may be omitted without injuring the chief intent of the sentence.

EXCEPTION.

There is also this general exception to the foregoing observations; viz.

When a parenthetical expression is introduced into the body of one of these, otherwise, indivisible clauses, such insertion is to be distinguished from the clause itself by a point at each extremity; as,

When he came,

When, *contrary to expectation*, he came.

He acted wisely,

He acted, *as I expected*, wisely.

But adverbs belonging to the verb itself, and
which

which determine the intent of the sentence, are inseparable; as,

I have been, I have not been.

We have seen, we have often seen.

OBSERVATIONS

ON VERBS AND VERBIALS, &c.

As the student in punctuation may be puzzled with expressions, which, having the force of verbs and adverbs, are substituted for them; the following instances may, by giving him a general idea of such phrases, remove the difficulty:

Verbs. Verbials.

When they give,

As they give,

If they give,

As they have,

When I omit,

If thou omittest,

As he omitted,

} by giving.

} having.

} by omitting.

When

R U L E S FOR DIVIDING A SUBJECT OR DISCOURSE.

R U L E I.

EVERY simple sentence requires a point to distinguish it ; as,

When Intemperance spreadeth her delicacies
on the board when her wine sparkleth in the
cup when she smileth upon thee and persuadeth
thee to be joyful and happy then is the moment
of danger then let Reason stand firmly on her
guard.

Note. In the examples and exercises to the rules for dividing a subject I have used the period as a mark of separation ; as subjects thus divided will afford future exercises for the application of points, in converting these dots into the points appropriate to their situations ; as, which by a dash, or an additional dot, or both, may be changed into the proper point ; as, , ; : .

C

When

When Intemperance spreadeth her delicacies on the board. when her wine sparkleth in the cup. when she smileth upon thee. and persuadeth thee to be joyful. then is the moment of danger. then let reason stand upon her guard.

R U L E II.

Relatives and pronouns introducing a fresh verb, or a repetition of a former one; as,

Who loves God and whom God loves.

Who loves God. and whom God loves.

To the Supreme Being belong adoration and praise who hath stretched forth the heavens with his hand who hath described with his finger the courses of the stars who setteth bounds to the ocean which it cannot pass and saith unto the stormy winds be still.

To

To the Supreme Being belong adoration and praise. *who* hath stretched forth the heavens with his hand. *who* hath described with his finger the courses of the stars. *who* setteth bounds to the ocean. *which* it cannot pass. and saith unto the stormy winds. be still.

The providence of God is over all his works he ruleth and directeth with infinite wisdom.

The providence of God is over all his works. *he* ruleth and directeth with infinite wisdom.

P

R U L E III.

Adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections, introducing a fresh verb, or the repetition of a former one, are preceded by a point ;

as,

Naturally doth man desire the truth yet when it is before him he will not apprehend it and if it force itself upon him is he not offended at it.

Naturally doth man desire the truth. *yet* when it is before him. he will not apprehend it. *and* if it force itself upon him, is he not offended at it?

If thou wouldest mount up into her throne first bow thyself at her footstool if thou wouldest arrive at the knowledge of her first inform thyself of thy own ignorance.

*If*_P thou wouldest mount up into her throne. first bow thyself at her footstool. *if*_P thou wouldest arrive at the knowledge of her. first inform thyself of thy own ignorance.

He calleth forth worlds by the word of his mouth he smiteth with his arm and they sink into

into nothing O reverence the majesty of the Omnipotent and tempt not his anger lest thou be destroyed.

He calleth forth worlds by the word of his mouth. he finiteth with his arm. and they sink into nothing. O reverence the majesty of the Omnipotent. and tempt not his anger. lest thou be destroyed.

R U L E IV.

Several adjectives belonging to one substantive will each have a point, except that which is nearest to the substantive ; as,

Now to the king immortal eternal invisible.

Now to the king immortal. eternal. invisible.

Second exception.

Where two or more adjectives are united by a conjunctive ; as,

The only wise and true God,

Third exception.

Indivisible adjectives; that is, two or more adjectives auxiliaries to each other; as,

It is of a dark shining brown colour,

He was a tall majestic figure,

&c. &c. &c.

R U L E V.

Several substantives referring to a common adjective or adjectives; except that which is nearest the adjective; as,

Upright and wise princes nobles counsellors judges and priests.

Upright and wise princes. nobles. counsellors. judges. and priests.

R U L E VI.

The vocative case requires to be distinguished by a point; as,

Mayest thou dear infant rise as a young flower in the spring may thy life be a sweet perfume offered up to Heaven.

Mayest

Mayest thou. *dear infant.* rise as a young flower in the spring. may thy life be a sweet perfume offered up to Heaven.

When thou considerest thy wants when thou beholdest thy imperfections acknowledge his goodness O man who honoured thee with Reason endowed thee with speech and placed thee in society to receive and confer reciprocal helps and mutual obligations.

When thou considerest thy wants. when thou beholdest thy imperfections. acknowledge his goodness. *O man.* who honoured thee with Reason. endowed thee with speech. and placed thee in society to receive and confer reciprocal helps. and mutual obligations.

R U L E VII.

Several nominative cases to the same verb require a point to each of them; as,

C 4

Men

Men women and children were assembled on the occasion *.

Men. women. and children. were assembled on the occasion.

The sun the moon the stars and the infinite space in which they move immeasurably distant from each other proclaim the Almighty power that formed and placed them there.

The sun. the moon. the stars. and the infinite space in which they move. immeasurably distant from each other. proclaim the Almighty power that formed and placed them there.

R U L E VIII.

Several objective cases to the same verb, except the nearest to the verb, require a point to distinguish them ; as,

* When the nominative case nearest to the verb agrees with it in number and person, the point *may* be omitted ; but if it do not agree with the verb, the point should *not* be omitted.

Worship

Worship him who made the heavens the earth
the seas and fountains of waters.

Worship him. who made the *heavens. the
earth. the seas. and fountains of waters.*

R U L E IX.

Several verbs having the same nominative
case will each have a point, except the nearest
to the nominative case; as,

He sows plants builds and improves and all
with a view to future pleasure and profit.

He *sows. plants. builds. and improves. and*
all with a view to future pleasure and profit.

R U L E X.

Several verbs having the same object will each
have a point, except the nearest to the objective
case; as,

Love reverence and imitate the virtuous.

Love. reverence. and imitate the virtuous.

RULE XI.

Verbs, or verbials, introducing a fresh subject, require a point; as,

VERBIALS.

By forming themselves on fantastic models. and vicing with each other in every reigning folly, the young begin with being ridiculous. and end in being vicious and immoral.

VERBS.

When they form themselves on fantastic models. and vie with one another in every reigning folly. the young begin with being ridiculous. and end in being vicious and immoral.



RULE XII.

Parenthetical or inserted members are to be distinguished from the intire sentence, into which they are inserted, by a point at each extremity of the insertion: as,

I honour

I honour the bard who to excite sentiments of virtue in the yielding heart watches the nocturnal song of the grasshopper till the rising of the morning star.

I honour the Bard. who. *to excite sentiments of virtue in the yielding heart.* watches the nocturnal song of the grasshopper till the rising of the morning star.

R U L E XIII.

Things distinctly recited, or enumerated, require a point to each; as,

One. two. three. four. &c.

First. second. third. fourth. &c.

Kings. princes. nobles. judges.

Gold. silver. copper. iron. &c.

Black. white. red. &c.

R U L E XIV.

The distinct subjects of a simile or comparison require a point to each;

As the eye of the morning to the lark. as the shades of the evening to the owl. as honey to the bee. or as the carcase to the vulture. even such is life to the heart of man.

As one who traverseth the burning sands in search of water. so is the soul that thirsteth after knowledge.

R U L E XV.

A literal term, or expression, repeated figuratively, will have a point to distinguish it; as,

The moon, fair empress of the night.

This rule may apply to repetitions in general; as,

O fool, fool, the pains, which thou takest to hide what thou art, are more than would make thee what thou wouldest seem.

THE APPLICATION OF THE PRECEDING RULES.

In order to divide a subject

1. Find the principal verb.
2. The nominative case and its adjuncts.
3. The objective case and its adjuncts.
4. The adverb, or adverbial expressions, shewing the time, place, manner, cause, instrument, &c.
5. The conjunctive, relative, or other introductory words or phrases.

These, according to the rules already given, are the constituent parts of a sentence, and are not to be separated in pointing: but sometimes one sentence or expression is inserted in another. These, as before noticed, are to be distinguished, from the sentence itself, by a point at each extremity.

The following examples will illustrate the application of these rules.

EXAMPLE

EXAMPLE I.

The Lord is my shepherd,
 I shall not want.
 He maketh me to lie down
 In green pastures.
 He leadeth me beside
 The still waters.
 He restoreth my soul.
 He leadeth me
 In the paths of righteousness.
 For his name's sake.

¹⁵ { The Lord *nominative case.*
⁷ is *verb substantive which takes a*
¹⁵ { my shepherd. *nominative case after it.*
⁷

The Lord is my shepherd.

¹⁵ { I *nominative case.*
¹⁹ shall not want. *verb and adverb.*
¹⁹ I shall not want.

Note. The figures refer to the rules respecting the indivisible parts of sentences.

The noun which follows, as well as that which precedes the verb substantive, is in the nominative case; they both standing for the same person or thing; as, the Lord is my shepherd—my shepherd is the Lord.

- 15 { He *nom. case.*
 { maketh *principal verb.*
 16 { me *objective case.*
 18 to lie *infin. verb.*
 19 down
 in green pastures. *adverbial adjuncts.*

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.

- 15 { He *nom. case.*
 { leadeth *verb.*
 16 { me *objective case.*
 g 3 beside the still waters. *adverbial.*

He leadeth me beside

The still waters.

- 15 { He *nom.*
 { restoreth *verb.*
 16 { my soul. *objective and its adjunct.*

He restoreth my soul.

He *noun.*
 leadeth *verb.*

in the paths of righteousness *adverbials of*
 for his name's sake. *manner & cause.*

Note. g 3 stands for 3d General Rule.

He leadeth me
In the paths of righteousness.
For his name's sake.

The Lord is my shepherd.

I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down
In green pastures.

He leadeth me beside
The still waters.

He restoreth my soul.

He leadeth me
In the paths of righteousness.
For his name's sake.

The figures over the sentences refer to the rules by which the divisions are made.

EXAMPLE II.

I honour the Bard who to excite sentiments of virtue in the yielding heart watches the nocturnal song of the grasshopper till the rising of the morning star.

THE PRECEDING RULES.

43

- 15 { I *nom.*
honour *verb.*
16 { the Bard *objec. case.*

I honour the Bard.

- 15 { who *nom. case.*
watches *verb; this is the next finite verb.*
16 { the nocturnal song } *objective case and its*
of the grasshopper. } *adjuncts.*

till the rising of the morning star. *adver.*

Who watches the nocturnal song of the grasshopper till the rising of the morning star.

- 16 { to excite *verbial; that he may excite.*
sentiments of
virtue in the
yielding heart. } *objective and its adjuncts.*

To excite sentiments of virtue in the yielding heart.

I honour the Bard. who. to excite sentiments of virtue in the yielding heart. watches the

the nocturnal song of the grasshopper till the rising of the morning star.

EXAMPLE III.

In order to render yourselves amiable in society correct every appearance of harshness in behaviour let that courtesy distinguish your demeanour which springs not so much from studied politeness as from a mild and gentle heart follow the customs of the world in matters indifferent but stop when they become sinful let your manners be simple and natural and of course they will be engaging affectation is certain deformity by forming themselves on fantastic models and vieing with one another in every reigning folly the young begin with being ridiculous and end in being vicious and immoral.

11

In order to render yourselves amiable in society. correct every appearance of harshness in

Note. Though adverbial adjuncts are properly indivisible parts of a sentence, yet, as they sometimes continue the clause to a length which is painful to the reader, and therefore unpleasant to the hearer, a discretionary liberty of separating them from their verbs, when the reader's ease and harmony of sound require it, seems proper.

behaviour.

behaviour. let that courtesy distinguish your demeanour which springs not so much from studied politeness. as from a mild and gentle heart. follow the customs of the world in matters indifferent. but stop. when they become sinful: let your manners be simple and natural. and of course they will be engaging. affectation is certain deformity. by forming themselves on fantastical models. and vying with one another in every reigning folly. the young begin with being ridiculous. and end in being vicious and immoral.

EXERCISES

IN THE DIVISION OF A SUBJECT.

I.

When thou considerest thy wants when thou beholdest thy imperfections acknowledge his goodness

goodness O man who honoured thee with Reason endowed thee with speech and placed thee in society to receive and confer reciprocal helps and mutual advantages.

- When thou considerest thy wants. when thou beholdest thy imperfections. acknowledge his goodness. O man. who honoured thee with Reason. endowed thee with speech. and placed thee in society to receive and confer reciprocal helps and mutual advantages*.

2.

- As in the succession of the seasons each by the invariable laws of nature affects the productions

Note. Let the learner place the numerical reference over each division where there is no such reference.

* And placed thee in society to receive and confer reciprocal helps and mutual advantages—these are strictly indivisible.

But ease in reading, and harmony of sound, seem to warrant the dividing of this sentence in the following manner:

And placed thee in society. to receive and confer. reciprocal helps. and mutual advantages.

But it will be proper for the learner to adhere strictly to rule in the first place, and when perfect in the rules he may then use a discretionary liberty.

of

of what is next in course so in human life every period of our age accordingly as it is well or ill spent influences the happiness of that which is to follow.

As in the succession¹⁴ of the seasons, each, by the invariable¹² laws of nature, affects the productions of what is next in course, so in human life, every period of our age, accordingly as it is well or ill spent, influences the happiness of that which is to follow*.

3.

As the fool while the images tremble on the bosom of the water thinketh that trees towns and the wide horizon are dancing to do him pleasure so man while nature performs her destined course believes that all her motions are but to entertain his eye.

* A whole sentence may be the nominative, objective, or any other case; as,

<i>Of what is next in course,</i>	} are	{ productions
<i>Of that which is to follow,</i>		
	genitive cases	and
	to the nouns	{ happiness.

And as genitive cases they are inseparable from their nouns by the third rule for the indivisible parts of a sentence.

As

¹As the fool. while the images tremble on the
bosom of the water. thinketh, that trees. towns.
and the ⁷wide horizon. are dancing to do him
pleasure. so man. while nature performs her
¹²destined course. believes. that all her motions
are but to entertain his eye.

4.
And Paul being called forth Tertullus the
orator accused him to the governor in these
words:

Seeing that by thee we enjoy great quietness
and that very worthy deeds are done unto this
nation by thy Providence we accept it always
and in all places most noble Felix with all thank-

Note. Intire sentences. *As the fool thinketh—so man believes.*
And Tertullus the orator, &c.—nevertheless I pray thee—that
thou wouldst bear us, &c.

Verbials. *Being called*, i. e. when he was called—*command-*
ing and commanded—by examining, of whom, as *thou ex-*
aminest him.

Adverbial. *With all thankfulness*; very, or most thankfully.
in all places, i. e. every where—*among all the Jews throughout*
the world—answering to the questions, where? and with
whom?

fulness

fulness nevertheless that I be not further tedious unto thee I pray thee that thou wouldest of thy clemency hear us a few words for we have found this man a pestilent fellow and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world and a ringleader of the heresy of the Nazarenes who also hath gone about to profane the temple whom we took and would have judged according to our law but the chief captain Lysias came upon us and with great violence took him away out of our hands commanding his accusers to come unto thee by examining of whom thyself mayest take knowledge of all these things whereof we accuse him and the Jews also assented that these things were so.

And. Paul being called forth. ^{11 and 12} Tertullus the orator accused him to the governor in these words.

³ Seeing that by thee we enjoy great quietness. and that very worthy deeds are done unto this nation by thy Providence. we accept it always. and in all places. most noble Felix. with all thankfulness. nevertheless. that I be not further
4 ther

ther tedious unto thee. I pray thee. that thou wouldest. of thy clemency. hear us a few words. for we have found this man a pestilent fellow. and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world. and a ringleader of the heresy of the Nazarenes. who also hath gone about to profane the temple. whom we took. and would have judged according to our law. but the chief captain Lycias came upon us. and with great violence took him away out of our hands. cominanding his accusers to come unto thee. by examining of whom thyself mayest take knowledge of all these things. whereof we accuse him. and the Jews also assented. that these things were so.

5.

Sad and slow passed our days while the cloud-
ed sky poured forth rain and the bleak winds
chilled us with cold but at length the genial sun
reanimated the earth and brightened the heavens
while gentle winds chased the moist fogs from
the summit of the mountains reviving nature
smiled at the return of youth the fields were
again clothed in cheerful green innumerable
flowers decked the pastures and seemed to vie

with the sun in lustre the trees again began to shoot out their buds and all nature was full of new born joy thus crowned with leaves and flowers came amiable spring that delightful morning of the year.

Sad and slow passed our days. while the clouded sky poured forth rain. and the bleak winds chilled us with cold. but at length the genial sun reanimated the earth. and brightened the heavens. while gentle winds chased the moist fogs from the summit of the mountains. reviving nature smiled at the return of youth. the fields were again clothed in cheerful green. innumerable flowers decked the pastures. and seemed to vie with the sun in lustre. the trees again began to shoot out their buds. and all nature was full of new born joy. thus. crowned with leaves and flowers. came amiable spring. that delightful morning of the year.

6.

We soon after entered the grotto and seating ourselves on our bed of intermingled leaves and

D

flowers

flowers began our frugal meal seasoned however with mutual endearments and grateful converse when a gloomy cloud suddenly obscured the declining sun it spread over our heads with increasing darkness and the black veil which covered the earth seemed to presage the destruction of all nature a tempestuous wind arose it bellowed in the mountains it overthrew the trees of the forest flames darted from the clouds and loud bursts of thunder augmented the horrors of this tremendous scene Eve struck with terror threw herself scarce breathing into my arms and clinging to my breast cried he comes he comes in flames he comes to bring the threatened death how dreadful for my sin he comes to give death to us and to all nature O Adam O my love here her voice failed and she remained trembling and pale on my bosom be calm my love I cried compose thyself we will with bended knees and contrite hearts adore our God who in terrible majesty comes riding on the clouds his thunder proclaims his approach the darting fire marks his passage O thou eternal who with benignity and goodness tempered the insupportable radiance of thy dignity when I first came from thy creating hand

hand thou art terrible in judgment yet suffer us not to be consumed by thy wrath destroy us not O God in thy hot displeasure.

We then prostrated ourselves at the entrance of the grotto and with pale countenances and trembling lips offered up our adorations expecting when our awful judge would from the clouds pronounce by his thunders die ye ungrateful and let the earth that bore you be dissolved by the fire of my indignation.

The clouds now poured forth their torrents livid flames no longer flashed from the heavens and the thunder rolled at a distance I raised my head from the ground saying the Almighty my dear Eve hath passed by he hath not destroyed the earth we are yet permitted to live he hath remembered his promises eternal wisdom everlasting truth repenteth not he will fulfil the designs of his mercy and thy seed O Eve shall bruise the head of the serpent

We arose and were comforted the heavens resumed their brightness and the setting sun spread a mild radiance through the sky like the luminous track we used to behold in Eden when legions of angels were carried above our heads

on the flying clouds silence reigned over the moist fields the herbage and flowers still glittering with the drops of heaven glowed with more than usual beauty the departing sun darted on us his last beams while we celebrated with reverential awe and thankful love the wisdom power and mercy of our Creator.

We soon after entered the grotto. and seating ourselves on our bed of intermingled leaves and flowers. began our frugal meal. seasoned. however. with mutual endearments and grateful converse. when a gloomy cloud suddenly obscured the declining sun. it spread over our heads with increasing darkness. and the black veil. which covered the earth. seemed to preface the destruction of all nature. a tempestuous wind arose. it bellowed in the mountains. it overthrew the trees of the forest. flames darted from the clouds. and loud bursts of thunder *

* Loud bursts of thunder

⁶ augmented ³

the horrors of

⁷ ³ this tremendous scene.

{ nominative case

¹⁵ { verb.

¹⁶ { objective case and its adjuncts.

augmented

augmented the horrors of this tremendous scene.

Eve, struck with terror, threw herself, scarce breathing, into my arms, and clinging to my breast, cried—he comes, he comes, in flames he comes to bring the threatened death, how dreadful *. for my sin he comes to give death to us, and to all nature. O Adam, O my love, here her voice failed, and she remained trembling, and pale on my bosom. be calm my love, I cried, compose thyself, we will with bended knees and contrite hearts adore our God, who, in terrible majesty, comes riding on the clouds, his thunder proclaims his approach, the darting fire marks his passage. O thou eternal, who with benignity and goodness tempered the insupportable radiance of thy dignity, when I first came from thy creating hand, thou art terrible in judgment, yet suffer us not to be consumed by thy wrath, destroy us not, O God, in thy hot displeasure.

We then prostrated ourselves at the entrance of the grotto, and, with pale countenances, and

* How dreadful is this—in exclamatory sentences the verb is oftener understood than expressed.

trembling lips. offered up our adorations. expecting when our awful judge would from the clouds pronounce by his thunders. die ye ungrateful. and let the earth that bore you be dissolved by the fire of my indignation.

The clouds now poured forth their torrents. livid flames no longer flashed from the heavens. and the thunder rolled at a distance. I raised my head from the ground. saying. the Almighty. my dear Eve. hath passed by. he hath not destroyed the earth. we are yet permitted to live. he hath remembered his promises. Eternal wisdom. everlasting truth. repenteth not. he will fulfil the designs of his mercy. and thy seed. O Eve. shall bruise the head of the serpent.

We arose. and were comforted. the heavens resumed their brightness. and the setting sun spread a mild radiance through the sky. like the luminous track we used to behold in Eden. when legions of angels were carried above our heads on the flying clouds. silence reigned over the moist fields. the herbage and flowers. still glittering with the drops of heaven. glowed with more than usual beauty. the departing sun darted on us his last beams.

while

while we celebrated with reverential awe. and

thankful love. the wisdom. power. and mercy
of our Creator.

APPLICATION

OF THE

POINTS

while we celebrated with rejoicing and

all most kind and merciful

thankful love, the

of our

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PRELIMINARY REMARKS

ON THE

COMPLETION AND CONNEXION OF CLAUSES.

COMPLETION.

A simple, or compound clause is complete when its sense is full, and it has all its parts, *i. e.* the verb, and its noun, or nouns, and their adjuncts; and, in compound clauses, the simple members connected by conjunctions, or the relatives, *who, which, what,* and the demonstrative pronoun, *that*; as,

SIMPLE.

The grateful man acknowledgeth his obligations with cheerfulness.

COMPOUND.

The hand of the generous man is like the clouds of heaven, which drop upon the earth fruits, herbage and flowers.

Sentences are incomplete when their chief constituent parts, *i. e.* the verb, or the nomina-

tive, and objective case, are situated in another clause; as,

John and James write correctly; but James the more correctly of the two.

This example contains an instance of a complete, and incomplete clause.

The sense of a clause is to be considered as full though the real nouns are concealed under their pronominal representatives; as,

I recommended him to them.

They were not true to the trust reposed in them.

It is however presumed that these personal pronouns, both in writing and speaking, are sufficiently explained by some preceding expression or circumstance: the effect which these words have on the clauses containing them brings us to the second object of these remarks; viz.

CONNEXION.

Clauses or sentences are connected two ways, by **Construction** and **Affinity**:

BY CONSTRUCTION,

When they contain an antecedent to a relative in the succeeding clause, or a relative referring

ferring to an antecedent in the preceding one, or are connected by a conjunction, &c. as,

The honour of a *servant* is his fidelity:

His highest virtues are submission and obedience.

The former part of this example is complete in sense, but connected in construction by the antecedent *servant* referring to the relative *his* in the succeeding clause; and vice versa.

But this connexion only relates to contiguous clauses. If relatives, or pronominal representatives, refer to, or are explained by, remote clauses, as far as respects punctuation, such reference does not constitute connexion; unless two or more successive clauses, complete in sense and unconnected with each other, have one common reference, this constitutes connexion; as,

The air was yet moist with the dew of night; the birds still slept in silence; the sun had not begun to gild the tops of the hills, or the hovering fogs of the morning; yet Cain, distressed and melancholy, had left his cottage.

There

There is besides this grammatical connexion another which is easier to exemplify than define, and which, for want of a better term, I have called connexion

BY AFFINITY.

In this connexion the latter clause partially repeats, or glances at the preceding one; and this by way of compressing, illustrating or strengthening the sentiment of the former; as,

A man given to vice contracts to himself many diseases, the cure of which costs him more than all his pleasures can recompence: Health is easily lost; but the recovery is bought of physicians at a very great rate.

Excess in apparel is a costly folly: The very trimming of the vain world would clothe all the naked one.

There can be no friendship where there is no freedom: Friendship loves to be free, and will not be penned up in straight and narrow inclosures.

Let your manners be simple and natural, and, of course, they will be engaging: Affectation is deformity.

The

The two clauses in each of these examples are complete in sense, and not connected in grammatical construction, yet there is evidently an affinity, which forbids their total separation, by a full stop.

When a clause, whether simple or compound, is complete in sense and unconnected with the succeeding one, it is called a period; and is terminated by the point which bears that name.

When two clauses come together both complete in sense, but connected, they require to be separated by a colon; such are subperiods.

When a clause, which is complete in sense, is connected with a succeeding one, which is incomplete, the semicolon is used to distinguish it; such are *ways* compound sentences.

This point is used to distinguish the independent members of a compound clause, &c. simple sentences.

The

The two clauses in each of these examples

are connected in

by an affinity, which forbids their total separa-

tion by a full stop.

non by a full stop.

GENERAL RULES

FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE POINTS.

PERIOD.

When a clause, whether simple or compound, is complete in sense and unconnected with the succeeding one, it is called a period; and is terminated by the point which bears that name.

COLON.

When two clauses come together both complete in sense, but connected, they require to be separated by a colon; such are subperiods.

SEMICOLON.

When a clause, which is complete in sense, is connected with a succeeding one, which is incomplete, the semicolon is used to distinguish it; such are *mostly* compound sentences.

COMMA.

This point is used to distinguish the imperfect members of a compound clause, *i. e.* simple sentences.

THE PERIOD

Is used to distinguish a clause which is complete and unconnected with the succeeding one ; as,

Gaming seems to me of all vices the greatest enemy to happiness. Its inseparable attendants are, envy, deceit, impiety, and a whole train of diabolical associates.

Health, peace of mind, family, friends, country, and, in short, every thing valuable and desirable, is sacrificed to *it*. All conversation and improvement are put a stop to the moment gaming commences; friendship and society, benevolence and humanity, cease; and nothing farther is thought of but the ruin of those you are in company with. It is ridiculous to hear some people term *it* an agreeable amusement, an inoffensive relaxation, &c.; those, who so miscall it, must, notwithstanding, allow it to be an irrational and unimproving diversion, and that, at the best, it is but murdering time.

The relative *it*, having reference to the word gaming, and not to the preceding clause, does not constitute connexion. Vide *Connexion*.

THE

THE COLON.

Two clauses complete in sense, but connected, require a colon; as,

1.

In adversity *man* seeth himself abandoned by others; he findeth that all his hopes are centered within himself; he rouseth his soul; he encountereth his difficulties, and they flee before him: In prosperity *he* fancieth himself safe; he thinketh that he is beloved of all that smile about his table; he groweth careless and remiss; he seeth not the danger that is before him; he trusteth to others, and in the end they deceive him.

2.

The terrors of death are no terrors to the good: Restrain thy hand from evil, and thy soul shall have nothing to fear.

In the first of these examples the complete clauses are connected by construction, and in the second by affinity.

THE SEMICOLON

Is used after a clause which is complete in sense, but connected with a succeeding one which is incomplete; as,

Thou, who seest that in nature the whole is as admirable as its parts, cannot better employ thine eye, than in tracing out thy Creator's greatness in them; thy mind, than in examining their wonders.

The care of her family is her whole delight; to that alone she applieth her study.

Avoid guilt, and thou shalt know that fear is beneath thee; that shame is unmanly.

To this point belongs, in a particular manner, the office of discriminating the peculiar relations of sentences to each other, and on this account, besides this general rule, the following particular ones are also necessary.

RULE II.

Distinct clauses in simile or comparison require a semicolon; as,

He was as the morning star in the midst of a cloud, and as the moon at the full; as the sun shining upon the temple of the Most High, and as the rainbow giving light in the bright clouds; as the flower of roses in the spring of the year; as lilies by the rivers of waters, and as the frankincense-tree in summer; as fire and incense in the censer, and as a vessel of gold set with precious stones; as a fair olive-tree budding forth fruit, and as a cypress which groweth up to the clouds.

When he put on the robe of honour, and was clothed with the perfection of glory, when he went up to the holy altar, he made the garment of holiness honourable.

He himself stood by the hearth of the altar, surrounded with his brethren; he as a young cedar in Libanus; they as palm-trees compassing him about.

R U L E II.

Argumentative, or expository sentences in succession, will have a semicolon; as,

Let not the season of youth be barren of improvements, so essential to your future felicity and honour; your fate is in some measure put into your own hands; your nature is as yet pliant and soft; habits have not established their dominion; prejudices have not preoccupied your understanding; the world has not had time to contract and debase your affections; all your powers are more vigorous, disembarrassed, and free, than they will be at any other future period; whatever impulse you now give to your desires and passions, the direction is likely to continue; it will form the channel in which your life is to run; nay, it may determine its everlasting issue.

R U L E I I I .

Contrast, difference, disagreement, and opposition, have a semicolon ; as,

By listening to wise admonitions, and tempering the vivacity of youth with a proper mixture of serious thought, you may ensure cheerfulness for the rest of your life ; but, by delivering yourselves up at present to giddiness and levity, you lay the foundation of lasting heaviness of heart.

He, in a very commendable manner, applied himself diligently to his studies ; but the other gave himself up wholly to negligence and indolence.

But if there be a succession of sentences in contrast, opposition, &c. the semicolon will be placed between the intire contrasts, and not the members of each ; as,

This is black, that white ; this heavy, that light ; this, &c.

R U L E IV.

Example, exception, inference, and illustration; as,

There have been those, who have hazarded their own lives to save that of a friend; as, in the instance of, &c.

Upon a man of a hard and insensible disposition the shafts of misfortune often fall pointlessly and impotent; there are persons by no means hard and insensible, who, from an elastic and sanguine turn of mind, are continually prompted to look on the fair side of things, and having suffered one fall, immediately rise again to pursue their course, with the same eagerness, the same hope, and the same gaiety, as before.

It is a metal, is yellow, heavy, very malleable, endures the fire without wasting, and appears to have every known property of gold; therefore, &c.

God is that to the soul, which the sun is to the world; light.

R U L E V.

A succession of sentences having one common reference are distinguished by the semicolon ; as,

If instead of exerting reflection for this valuable purpose, you deliver yourself up at so critical a time to sloth and pleasure; *if* you refuse to listen to any counsellor but humour, or to attend to any pursuit except that of amusement; *if* you allow yourselves to float loose and careless on the tide of life, ready to receive any direction, which the current of fashion may chance to give you; what can you expect from such beginnings?

“To give an early preference to honour above gain, when they stand in competition; to despise every advantage, which cannot be attained without dishonest arts; to brook no meanness, and to stoop to no dissimulation; are the indications of a great mind, the presages of future eminence and distinction in life.”

COMMA.

COMMA.

From the preceding rules it appears, that the points already treated of perform these gradatory functions; viz. that to perfect clauses the period is assigned; to subperiods, being in the next degree perfect, the colon is applied; and to complete clauses, preceding and connected with incomplete ones, the semicolon is used; so the comma, being the lowest in this gradation, is used to distinguish the simple and imperfect members of compound sentences.

The application of the comma produces too great a variety of cases to particularize, but in general it precedes conjunctions, relatives, adverbs, and other words introducing a fresh verb, or the repetition of a preceding one; in short, most of the rules laid down for the division of a discourse into its parts imply the use of a comma.

Quotations, interrogations, and ejaculatory sentences, have their own proper marks: as,

I admire these expressions of the Psalmist, by which he so elegantly and sublimely describes the omnipresence and omniscience of the Almighty.

“ Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven; thou art there! If I make my bed in hell; behold, thou art there! If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there, shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me! If I say, surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me! the darkness hideth not from thee, but the night shineth as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.”

The quotation is noticed at its commencement and termination by “ ”

The interrogatory members by ?

And the ejaculatory by !

EXERCISES.

IN these exercises the student will find, in some places, points without references; in others, references without points; and in others, neither points nor references; these he will supply, placing the references in the following manner :

Let the figures, which refer to the rules for the division of the parts, be placed over the middle of those divisions; and let those, which refer to the rules for the application of the points, be placed over the points themselves; and lastly, let the references to the rules for the indivisible parts of sentences be placed under those words whose connexion they are to account for; as,

Note. When the reference is made to a general rule, distinguish it by the letter g; as g 2 means 2d General Rule.

In writing these exercises the lines should be kept so far asunder that the figures of each may not interfere with, and confuse each other.

I.

The man,^{*} to whom God¹² hath given riches,
 7 15 20 19 15 17 16

and a mind to employ them aright, is peculiarly^{* 1}
 19 7 ex. 16 18 16 19 17 19

favoured, and highly distinguished: He look-
 17 19 19 15

eth on his wealth *with pleasure*; because it af-
 7 7 16 8 3 19 15

fordeth³ him the means to do good.
 10 20 7 16 18

2.

May the blessings of thy God ever wait upon
 thee. may the sun of glory shine round thy

Note. Let the parts of an intire sentence, which are separat-
 ed by parenthetical insertions, be each marked in some way to
 distinguish them; as,

The man^{*}——— is peculiarly favoured.^{*}

Ex. 16, i. e. exception to the 16th Rule.

18. *To employ* follows the verb *hath given*, which is under-
 stood in this clause.

Affordeth him the means, *i. e.* enables him to do, &c.

18

head.

head. and may the gates of plenty honour and happiness be always open to thee and thine may no sorrow distress thy days may no strife disturb thy nights may the pillow of peace kiss thy cheeks and the pleasures of imagination attend thy dreams and when length of years makes thee tired of earthly joys and the curtain of death gently closes round the last sleep of human existence may the angels of God attend thy bed and take care that the expiring lamp of life shall not receive one rude blast to hasten its extinction.

16

O hearken then to the voice of distress and grant the petition of thy servant! O spare the

¹ father of my children save the partner of my ¹ bed. my husband. my all that is dear. ^g con-

sider O ⁶ mighty sir that he did not become rich by iniquity. and that *what he possessed* was the

inheritance of a long line of flourishing ancestors, who in those smiling days when the ¹⁵

thunder of Great Britain was not heard on the

fertile plains of Hindostan reaped their harvests
 in quiet and enjoyed their patrimony unmolested
 think O think that the God thou worship-
 est delights not in the blood of the innocent.
 I remember thy own commandment thou shalt
 not kill and by the order of heaven give me
 back my Almas Ali Cawn, and take all our
 wealth strip us of all our precious stones of all
 our gold and silver but take not the life of my
 husband. innocence is seated on his brow and
 the milk of human kindness flows round his
 heart let us wander through the desarts let us
 become tillers and labourers in those delightful
 spots of which he once was lord and master

But spare O mighty fir spare his life. let not
 the instrument of death be lifted up against
 him; for he hath not committed any crime. ac-
 cept our treasures with gratitude thou hast them
 at present by force we will remember thee in
 our prayers and forget that we were ever rich
 and powerful my children the children of Al-
 mas Ali send up their petition for the life of
 him

him who gave them birth they beseech from
¹³ ²⁰

thee the author of their existence. from that
³

humanity which we have been told glows in
 the hearts of Englishmen. by the honour. the
 virtue. the honesty. and the maternal feelings
 of the great queen. whose offspring is so dear
 to her the miserable wife of thy prisoner be-
 seesches thee to save the life of her husband and

restore him to her arms. Thy God will re-
³ ^{8¹}

ward thee. thy country must thank thee. and
¹ ¹
she now petitioning will ever pray for thee. if
¹⁵

thou grantest the prayer of thy

Humble vassal

ALMASSA ALLI CAWN.

3.

Swift o'er the high grafs sweeps the blast
A silver shade spreads o'er the lively green
The gale is past
No more the silver shade is seen
Saw ye the lightning flash along the sky
Save yonder blasted oak
A drear memorial of the with'ring stroke
It leaves no trace to guide the following eye
Children of men! and such your lot
Ye live your little hour and die and are forgot
What then avail the jewelled crown of power
Pomps ermined robe or glory's death-red sword
What then the wise ones dreams the misers hoard
When death proclaims th' inevitable hour
Life's vain distinctions cease the eternal doom
Bids all the sons of clay be equal in the tomb
What tho' earth's millions the dark realms explore
No cheering tidings reach mankind from thence
For there the eye of wisdom sees no more
And silent is the tongue of eloquence
For no one of the innumerable dead
Revisits men from that obscure abode
For never spirit twice could tread
The dark the dreadful road
Why sleeps the poet. he whose magick song
Leads charmed fancy those wild realms along
Whose shadowy portals bear the ominous line
"Quit every hope all ye who enter here!"

Why

Why sleeps the bard divine
 Whose spirit "far beyond the visible sphere
 Soar'd on the seraphs wing of ecstasy?"
 Why sleeps the seer
 Who gave the laws of nature to our eye
 Fill'd with a portion of divinity.
 For me be mine when fate shall free
 This spirit from mortality
 Catching mem'ry's mellowed sigh
 Still o'er my wonted haunts to fly
 In gentle visions to descend
 The guardian angel of my friend
 To ease the last ling'ring breath
 Breath joy prophetic in the hour of death
 Embrace in air the new-born sprite
 And guide it to the realms of light
 Enthusiast!—if thou canst explore
 The vale of life that lies before
 Dark is the vale of years
 Dimm'd by these little mists in Reason's feeble eye
 Enthusiast! cease to gaze amid immensity
 When on the bed of death,
 Quick beats my pulse, and falt'ring heaves my
 breath
 Wearying the sick heart with their fruitless cries
 Let me in that last moment know
 What proud joys virtue can bestow
 And, fearless of the iron rod
 Look up to thee my friend, my father, and my
 God!
 Ah spare that agonizing hour

Come

Come *quickly* death and I will bless thy power
 Come *quickly*—*snatch* me to the realms above.
 But spare that pang to part with those I love
 And when the grass shall wave
 Slow o'er my humble grave
 My grave beside some hawthorn bush wherein
 The nightingale shall sing her song
 Then may the peasant say and drop a tear
 "The bard beloved by all lies buried here."

4.

Let me turn aside and take one view of this
 habitation and its tenants the sullen door grates
 upon its hinges not used to receive many visitants
 it admits me with reluctance and murmurs what
 meaneth this sudden trepidation while I descend
 the steps and visit the pale nations of the dead
 be composed my spirits there is nothing to fear
 in these quiet chambers here even the wicked
 cease from troubling

Good heavens what a solemn scene how dismal
 the gloom here is perpetual darkness and
 night even at noon day. how doleful the soli-
 tude not one trace of cheerful society but sorrow
 and terror seem to have made this their dreaded
 abode hark how the hollow dome resounds at
 every

every tread the echoes that long have slept are awakened and whisper along the walls.

A beam or two finds its way through the grates and reflects a feeble glimmer from the nails of the coffins so many of those sad spectacles half concealed in shades half seen dimly by the baleful twilight add a gloomy horror to these gloomy mansions I pore upon the inscriptions and am just able to pick out that these are the remains of the rich and renowned no vulgar dead are deposited here the Most Illustrious and Right Honourable have claimed this for their last retreat and indeed they retain somewhat of a shadowy pre-eminence they lie ranged in mournful order and in a sort of silent pomp under the arches of an ample sepulchre while meaner corpses without much ceremony "go down to the stones of the pit."

My apprehensions recover from their surprize I find here are no phantoms but such as fear raises however it still amazes me to observe the wonders of this nether world. those who received vast revenues and called whole lordships their own are here reduced to a few sheets of lead rooms of state and sumptuous furniture are resigned for no other ornament than the shroud
for

for no other apartment than the darksome niche
 no splendid retinue attends this solitary dwell-
 ing the lordly equipage hovers no longer about
 the lifeless master nothing but the fable banners
 which seem to be displayed in triumph over a
 prostrate captive, or a dusty statue which while
 the regardless world is as gay as ever the sculp-
 tors hand has taught to weep instead of the star
 that blazed upon the breast or coronet that glit-
 tered round the temples the only remains of de-
 parted dignity are the weather beaten atchiev-
 ements and tattered escutcheon those who gloried
 in high born ancestors and noble pedigree here
 drop their lofty pretensions they acknowledge
 kindred with creeping things and quarter arms
 with the meanest reptiles "they say to corrup-
 tion thou art my father. and to the worm thou
 art my mother and my sister." O mortifying
 truth! sufficient. one would think. to wean
 the most sanguine appetite from this transitory
 state of things from its fickle satisfactions its
 fading glories its vanishing treasures.

For now ye lying vanities of life!

Ye ever tempting ever cheating train!

Where are ye now? and what is your amount?

What

What is all the world to these poor breathless beings? What are their pleasures a bauble broke what their honours a dream that is forgotten what the sum total of their enjoyments below once perhaps it appeared to inexperienced and fond desire something considerable but now death has measured it with his line and weighed it in his scale what is the upshot Alas! it is shorter than a span lighter than the dancing spark. and driven away like the dissolving smoke.

⁶
Indulge my soul a serious pause recollect all the gay things that were wont to dazzle thy eyes and inveigle thy affections here examine those baits of sense here form an estimate of their real value suppose thyself first among the favourites of fortune who revel in the lap of pleasure who shine in the robes of honour and swim in tides of inexhausted riches yet how soon would the passing bell proclaim thy exit and when once that iron call has summoned thee to thy future reckoning where would all these gratifications be? At that period how will all the pageantry of the most affluent conspicuous or luxuriant circumstances vanish into empty air and is this a happiness so passionately to be coveted?

I thank you ye relics of founding titles and magnificent names ye have taught me more of the littleness of the world than all the volumes of my library your nobility arrayed in a winding sheet your grandeur mouldering in an urn are the most invincible proofs of the nothingness of created things never surely did Providence write this important truth in such legible characters as in the ashes of my Lord or in the corpse of his Grace let others if they please pay their obsequious court to your wealthy sons and ignobly fawn or anxiously sue for preferments my thoughts shall often resort in pensive contemplation to the sepulchres of their fires and learn from their sleeping dust to moderate my expectations from mortals to stand disengaged from every undue attachment to the little interests of time to get above the delusive *amusements* of honour the gaudy tinsel of wealth and all the empty shadows of a perishing world

Hark ! What sound is that ! In such a situation every noise alarms. solemn and slow it breaks again upon the silent air : 'tis the striking of the clock designed one would imagine to ratify all my serious meditations methinks it says amen and sets a seal to every improving hint it

tells

tells me that another portion of my appointed time is elapsed. One calls it the knell of my departing hours 'tis the watch-word to vigilance and activity it cries in the ear of Reason redeem the time catch the favourable gales of opportunity O! catch them while they breathe before they are irrecoverably lost the span of life shortens continually thy minutes are all upon the wing and hastening thou art a borderer upon eternity and making incessant advances to the state thou art contemplating O may the admonition sink deep into an attentive and obedient mind may it teach me that *heavenly arithmetick* of "numbering my days and applying my heart unto wisdom"

I have often walked beneath the impending promontory's craggy cliff I have often trod the vast spaces of the lonely desert and penetrated the inmost recesses of the dreary cavern but never beheld nature louring with so tremendous a form never felt such impressions of awe striking cold on my heart as under these black-browed arches amidst these mouldy walls and surrounded by such rueful objects where melancholy deepest melancholy for ever spreads her raven wings let me now emerge from the damp and dreadful
obscurity

obscurity farewell ye seats of desolation and
shades of death gladly I revisit the realms of
day.

5.

Sometimes in my evening walk I have heard

The wakeful bird

Sing darkling and in shadiest covert hid

Tune her nocturnal note

How charmingly the little creature ran
through all the variations of music and shewed
herself mistress of every grace which constitutes
or embellishes harmony sometimes she swells a
manly throat and her song kindles into ardour
the tone is so bold and strikes with such energy
you would imagine the sprightly serenader in the
very next thicket. Anon the strain languishes
and the mournful warbler melts into tenderness
the melancholy notes just steal upon the shades
and faintly touch your ear or in soft and sadly
pleasing accents they seem to die along the dis-
tant vale silence is pleased and night listens to the
trilling tale.

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AN EXEMPLIFICATION OF THE MANNER OF PARSING.



Impress your mind with reverence for all that

is sacred. Let no wantonness of youthful spirits; no compliance with the intemperate mirth of others, ever betray you into profane sallies: besides the guilt that is thereby incurred, nothing gives a more odious appearance of petulance and presumption in youth, than the affectation of treating religion with levity; Instead of being an gives--understood

Note. A dot prefixed to a reference denotes a general rule; as, .2 i. e. 2d General Rule; an asterisk denotes the parts of the intricate sentence separated by an insertion.

The figures over the divisions refer to the divisible rules—the figures under the words to the indivisible rules—and the figures over the points to the rules for their application.

¹¹
evidence of superior understanding, it discovers a
¹⁶ ⁶ ³ ¹⁵

²
pert and shallow mind, which, in the first smat-
¹² ¹⁶ ¹⁵ ²
terings of knowledge, presumes to make light of
¹⁸
what the rest of mankind reveres.
¹⁶

¹
At the same time you are not to imagine, that,
¹⁹ ¹⁵ ¹⁹ ¹⁸ ¹⁹
¹ ¹²
when exhorted to *be* religious, you are called
¹⁹ ¹⁸ ¹⁵ ¹⁷
upon to become *more formal and solemn in your*
¹⁸ ³ ³
manners than others of the same years; or to
³ ¹⁹
erect yourselves into supercilious reprovers of
¹⁸ ¹⁶ ⁸ ⁶ ⁸
those around you. ¹ The spirit of true religion
³ ⁷ ¹⁵ ³

² ² ⁴
breathes gentleness and affability; it gives a na-
¹⁶ ¹ ¹⁶ ¹⁵
⁴ ² ²
tive, unaffected ease to the behaviour; it is social,
⁶ ⁴ ¹⁵
⁴ ⁴ ² ³
kind, and cheerful; far removed from the gloomy
¹⁹ ²⁰
and illiberal superstition, which clouds the brow,
⁹ ¹⁵ ⁷ ¹⁶
¹ sharpens

⁹sharpens the temper, ⁹dejects ¹⁶the spirit, and ¹⁹
⁷teaches ⁹men to fit themselves ¹⁶for another world.
¹⁵by neglecting ¹⁸the concerns ¹⁶of this: ⁴Let your re-
³ligion, on the contrary, ¹²connect ¹preparation for
¹⁶heaven with an honourable discharge of ¹⁶the du-
⁴ties of ⁸active life: ¹²Of such ⁶a religion ⁸discover,
³on every proper occasion, ¹²that you are ¹not ashamed;
¹⁶but avoid making ³any unnecessary ostenta-
¹⁹tion ⁶of it before others. ⁶
³

SUPPLEMENTARY REMARKS.

I.

Complete clauses commencing with adverbs, conjunctions, &c. that are merely introductory, having no particular reference; as,

At the same time, however, but, seeing, since, and such like; are to be deemed unconnected.

2.

If after a succession of clauses distinguished by the semicolon, a particular distinction is wanting which properly belongs to the semicolon, for distinction sake the colon must be substituted; as for instance, if two clauses, expressive of contrast, contained each a succession of members distinguished by semicolons, in this case the semicolon would not sufficiently distinguish the contrasted clauses.

In any case where conciseness may have rendered the synopsis obscure, turn to the rules themselves; and where any error may have escaped notice, please to correct it.

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THE END.